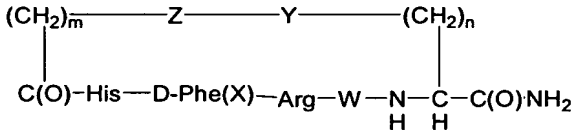
IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. A method of inhibiting alcohol consumption comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist to a subject in need thereof wherein the selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is a compound of Formula I:



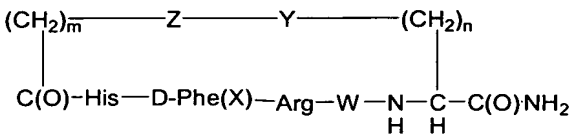
I

wherein:
His is L-histidyl;
D-Phe(X) is D-phenylalanyl unsubstituted or optionally para-substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, Me, and OMe;
Arg is L-arginyl;
W is L-tryptophanyl or 2-naphthyl-L-alanyl;
one of Y and Z is –C(O)- and the other is –NH-;
m is 1 to 4;
n is 1 to 4, provided that n+m is 4 to 6; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein Y is –C(O)- and Z is –NH-.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein m is 2 and n is 2.

4. The method of Claim 3 selected from:

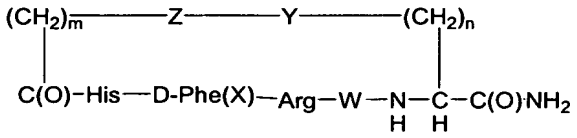


Z	Y	X	W	m	n
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	4	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	3	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	2	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	1	2

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The method of Claim 4 selected from cyclo(NH-CH_2-CH_2-CO-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Glu)-NH_2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

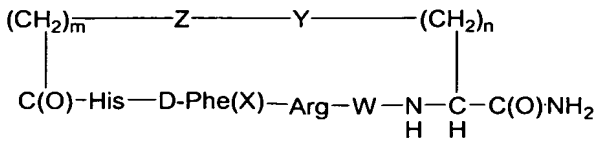
6. A method of reducing alcohol consumption comprising administering a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof wherein the selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is a compound of Formula I:



I

wherein:
His is L-histidyl;
D-Phe(X) is D-phenylalanyl unsubstituted or optionally para-substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, Me, and Ome;
Arg is L-arginyl;
W is L-tryptophanyl or 2-naphthyl-L-alanyl;
one of Y and Z is –C(O)- and the other is –NH-;
m is 1 to 4;
n is 1 to 4, provided that n+m is 4 to 6; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the compound of Formula I is selected from:

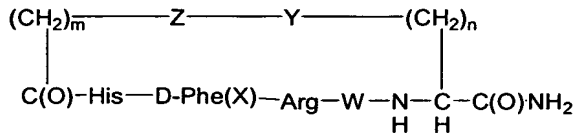


Z	Y	X	W	m	n
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	4	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	3	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	2	2
NH	C(O)	H	Trp	1	2

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the compound of Formula I is selected from cyclo(NH-CH_2-CH_2-CO-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Glu)-NH_2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

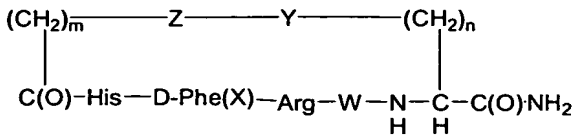
9. A method of treating alcoholism comprising administering a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof wherein the selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is a compound of Formula I:



I

wherein:
His is L-histidyl;
D-Phe(X) is D-phenylalanyl unsubstituted or optionally para-substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, Me, and OMe;
Arg is L-arginyl;
W is L-tryptophanyl or 2-naphthyl-L-alanyl;
one of Y and Z is -C(O)- and the other is –NH-;
m is 1 to 4;
n is 1 to 4, provided that n+m is 4 to 6; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A method of treating alcohol abuse comprising administering a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof wherein the selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is a compound of Formula I:



I

wherein:
His is L-histidyl;
D-Phe(X) is D-phenylalanyl unsubstituted or optionally para-substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, Me, and OMe;
Arg is L-arginyl;
W is L-tryptophanyl or 2-naphthyl-L-alanyl;
one of Y and Z is -C(O)- and the other is –NH-;
m is 1 to 4;
n is 1 to 4, provided that n+m is 4 to 6; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A method of inhibiting alcohol consumption comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a functional activity characterized by an EC_{50} at least 15-fold more selective for the human melanocortin 4 receptor than for the human melanocortin 1 receptor, the human melanocortin 3 receptor and the human melanocortin 5 receptor.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the functional activity of the melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is characterized by an EC_{50} at least 17-fold more selective for the human melanocortin 4 receptor than for the human melanocortin 3 receptor.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the functional activity of the melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is characterized by an EC_{50} at least 90-fold more selective for the human melanocortin 4 receptor than for the human melanocortin 3 receptor.

14. The method of Claim 11 wherein the functional activity of the melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is characterized by an EC_{50} at least 200-fold more selective for the human melanocortin 4 receptor than for the human melanocortin 5 receptor.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the functional activity of the melanocortin 4 receptor agonist is characterized by an EC_{50} at least 3000-fold more selective for the human

melanocortin 4 receptor than for the human melanocortin 5 receptor.

Claims 16 – 19 (canceled)